

57 gassed by chlorine after crash

Sydney, July 22

Fifty-seven people were taken to hospital here today after a lorry carrying chlorine gas and hydrochloric acid crashed into an electricity pole, releasing the deadly gas over a wide area.

Three people were seriously ill in hospital and thousands living up to a mile away were affected.

The accident, in which six drums of chlorine gas and two of concentrated hydrochloric acid fell from the lorry, happened in the suburb of Bexley, about seven miles from Sydney.

People living near the scene stumbled outdoors choking and coughing. Seven firemen who arrived just after the accident were among those overcome by fumes.

The owners of the cargo sent chemists, a truckload of bicarbonate of soda, and a tanker of caustic soda to the scene. It was their first such accident since they began making the products in 1944.—Reuter.